



# *Read Kansas!*

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*By the Kansas State Historical Society*

## Famous Kansan



*Laura Ingalls Wilder*  
1867-1957

Laura Ingalls Wilder loved to tell stories. Wilder and her family lived many places, so she had many stories to tell. Wilder wrote these stories in books to tell about the people she had met and the places she had been. Her most famous books are the *Little House* books.

Laura Ingalls Wilder and her family were pioneers. Wilder's father wanted to live on the frontier. When Wilder was young, Kansas was a frontier and there were only a few settlers living here. Nearly all of them were farmers. They built their own homes and raised their own food. Sometimes pioneer families moved to several places before they settled down. Wilder's family moved to Kansas and did those things, too.

After Laura Ingalls Wilder was married, she and her family lived in Missouri. The local newspaper asked Wilder to write an article. She did and she realized she liked to write. Soon she started writing the stories she had been telling. Wilder wrote many of these as short stories, so many people would read them in the newspaper.

It was Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter, Rose, who asked Wilder to write her stories in books. If the stories were not written, people would forget them in time and they would be lost. Wilder's daughter knew that other children would want to hear the stories. Today many children read about Laura Ingalls Wilder's adventures growing up.

Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote many books. She told stories about things that people did everyday. One of the books she wrote was about the time she and her family lived in Kansas. Today children read books of Wilder's stories to learn about history. Her books were so popular that a television series was made based on Wilder's stories. It was called *Little House on the Prairie*.



Laura Ingalls Wilder is standing on the right. Her younger sister, Carrie, is on the left and her older sister, Mary, is seated. This photo was taken in the 1870s.